

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

Claims 1-10: (canceled)

Claim 11. (currently amended): A method of identifying evidence of a neoplasm in a biological sample comprising:

(a) examining a level of expression of 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene, which encodes the protein of SEQ. ID. NO: 2 (Figure 1), in a test biological sample; and

(b) comparing the level of said 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene expression in the test biological sample to a level of said 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene expression found in a comparable normal biological sample,

wherein an enhanced level of ~~said 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene products~~
20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene expression in the test biological sample relative to the normal biological sample is evidence of a neoplasm, and
wherein the neoplasm is a prostate cancer.

Claim 12-18: (canceled)

Claim 19. (currently amended): A method of identifying evidence of a neoplasm in a biological sample comprising:

(a) examining a level of expression of 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene, which encodes the protein of SEQ. ID. NO: 2 (Figure 1), in a test biological sample; and

(b) comparing the level of said 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene expression in the test biological sample to a level of said 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene expression found in a comparable normal biological sample,

wherein an enhanced level of ~~said 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene products~~
20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene expression in the test biological sample relative to the normal
biological sample is evidence of a neoplasm,

wherein the 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 evaluated in the test biological sample is secreted from
neoplastic cells, and wherein the neoplastic cells are prostate cancer cells.

Claims 20-54. (canceled)

Claim 55. (currently amended): A method of identifying evidence of a neoplasm in a
biological sample comprising:

(a) examining a level of expression of 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene, which encodes the
protein encoded by a cDNA clone 20P1F12-GTC1 contained in the plasmid deposited with the
American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) as Accession No. 207097, in a test biological
sample; and

(b) comparing the level of said 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene expression in the test
biological sample to a level of said 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene expression found in a comparable
normal biological sample;

wherein an enhanced level of ~~said 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene products~~
20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene expression in the test biological sample relative to the normal
biological sample is evidence of a neoplasm; and

wherein the neoplasm is a prostate cancer.

Claims 56-61. (canceled)

Claim 62. (previously presented): The method according to claim 11, wherein the
level of 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene expression in the test biological sample is evaluated by
examining the level of 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 protein.

Claim 63. (currently amended): The method of claim 62, wherein the level of
20P1F12/TMPRSS2 protein is evaluated by an immunoassay by contacting the sample with an
antibody or antibody fragment ~~thereof~~ which is immunoreactive with said protein and observing

the presence or absence of an immunocomplex formed from the antibody or fragment with ~~any~~ 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 protein.

Claim 64. (previously presented): The method according to claim 19, wherein the level of 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene expression in the test biological sample is evaluated by examining the level of 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 protein.

Claim 65. (currently amended): The method of claim 64, wherein the level of 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 protein is evaluated by an immunoassay by contacting the sample with an antibody or antibody fragment ~~thereof~~ which is immunoreactive with said protein and observing the presence or absence of an immunocomplex formed from the antibody or fragment with ~~any~~ 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 protein.

Claim 66. (previously presented): The method according to claim 55, wherein the level of 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene expression in the test biological sample is evaluated by examining the level of 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 protein.

Claim 67. (currently amended): The method of claim 66, wherein the level of 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 protein is evaluated by an immunoassay by contacting the sample with an antibody or antibody fragment ~~thereof~~ which is immunoreactive with said protein and observing the presence or absence of an immunocomplex formed from the antibody or fragment with ~~any~~ 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 protein.

Claim 68. (previously presented): The method of claim 55, wherein the 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene products evaluated in the test biological sample are secreted from neoplastic cells.